

NIH Director To Be Graduation Speaker

By Marissa Vogt
NEWS EDITOR

Elias A. Zerhouni, director of the National Institutes of Health, will be MIT's 138th commencement speaker on June 4, 2004, according to director of the MIT News Office Arthur L. Jones.

Zerhouni is the 15th director of the NIH, before which he served as a professor of biomedical engineering and the executive vice dean of the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. The NIH budget has doubled under his direction.

After earning his medical degree from the University of Algeria, Zerhouni was accepted as a radiology resident at Johns Hopkins University. He then rose through the ranks at Johns Hopkins, becoming the chairman of the Department of Radiology and

Radiological Science, radiologist in chief, president of the Clinical Practice Association, vice dean for clinical affairs, vice dean for research.

Zerhouni chosen by Vest

Zerhouni was chosen by President Charles M. Vest from a list of candidates compiled by members of the Class of 2004.

"A committee was formed. We took the ideas of seniors and graduate students who would be graduating, and submitted a list to President Vest," said Class of 2004 President Maria E. Hidalgo '04.

Vest called Zerhouni "an innovative scientist and administrator who has made significant contributions to the world" since coming to the United States from Algeria in 1975.

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Compromise Reached In Summer Housing Debate

By Gireeja V. Ranade
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

Dormitories will not be classified into conference houses and student houses over the summer, as had been previously suggested last term by the summer housing task force, said Dean of Student Life Larry G. Benedict.

However, undergraduates, conferees, and pre-college students will be segregated within each building, he said.

An exception to this will be the students living in the east parallel of East Campus, which may be closed for renovations, according to Dormitory Council President Emily E. Cofer '04. Students from the East

parallel will be housed in the West parallel, Benedict said.

DormCon feedback implemented

DormCon submitted a report titled "Concerns with respect to the summer housing task force report" to Benedict last week, which included student input as well as considerations from DormCon meetings, Cofer said.

In the report, DormCon proposed that only certain areas of each dorm be taken offline for undergraduates. As a result students would only have to move in-house as opposed to across campus. Dormcon also argued

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BEN GALLUP—THE TECH

Class of 2005 presidential candidates (left to right: Eston N. Kimani, Dexter W. Ang, and Rohit Gupta) discuss their respective platforms during Monday's debate.

Class Council, UA Elections Begin

By Waseem S. Daher
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

Voting for Undergraduate Association and Class Council offices began at 12:01 a.m Monday, and the candidates for the Class Council presidents held their debate Monday night.

David B. Smith '05 and Noelle J. Kanaga '06 are running together for the offices of UA president and vice president, respectively, as are Harel M. Williams '05 and Phillip A. Vasquez '05.

Dexter W. Ang '05, Rohit Gupta '05, and Eston M. Kimani '05 are competing for the office of president of the Class of 2005. The positions of president for the Class of 2006 and Class of 2007 are uncontested, and thus the candidates were not present at last night's debate.

Smith and Kanaga's platform focuses on using the UA as an organization which can coordinate with and give power back to its smaller constituent organizations, that is, the dormitory and fraternity, sorority, and independent living group organizations.

Williams and Vasquez, on the other hand, envision a more centralized UA than the one Smith and

Kanaga do; however, they want a UA that is more approachable, so that students can more easily provide feedback to the officers.

Three running for 2005 president

All of the candidates for president of the 2005 class council endorsed a greater degree of communication with the student body and the Undergraduate Association, but each with his own twist.

Ang, a member of the Chi Phi fraternity and the current class council vice president, stressed inter-campus bonds, both between East and West Campus and between Cambridge and Boston, to "improve the relationship between different groups on campus," he said. One of his suggestions was a series of dorm and living group mixers so that people from across campus could mingle. He also suggested that the class

council subsidize dinners as events, among other things.

Gupta, current 2005 class council president, emphasized the need for more frequent class events to bring the class together. "We need a continuous flow of events to create some bonds between all sides of campus," he said. He suggested events like a senior barbeque to accomplish this goal.

Kimani is running on a platform centered on increasing communication through the creation of a better class Web site with an on-line forum in the hopes that it would become a place "where the '05 community can thrive," he said in the Class Council debate yesterday. He also suggested that the class have monthly talent shows and awards to recognize its members.

Elections, Page 16

Daniel S. Mun

Daniel S. Mun '05, a junior majoring in biology, died from drowning on Dec. 5, 2003. Mun was listed as missing for three months, until his body was recovered from the Charles River last weekend. He was 20 years old.

Mun involved in MIT life

Mun, known as "Dong" to friends, lived at the Chi Phi fraternity in Boston. He was actively involved in the Korean Students Association, where he served as a social chair, and Oori, a Korean drumming ensemble.

"Dan would come to study breaks and get people involved," said Inhan Kang '05, a fellow member of the KSA. "He'd make people feel welcome."

Kang said that Mun was very athletic and "loved sports," and often played tennis and attended basketball games.

"He was a great tennis player," said John V. Gutttag, head of the department of electrical engineering and computer science and the faculty advisor for Chi Phi. "I liked him a lot," Gutttag said. "One of the things I really liked is that he was just full of energy. He had enormous energy and it rubbed off on you when you were with him. It was just hard to be with him and not be having fun."

"He was greatly liked in the house, not only liked but admired as well. He was both liked and admired."

Chi Phi member Jeffrey J. Hsu '05 said that Mun would often volunteer to take out the trash from everyone's room just so he would be able to stop by and visit them. "While Dong was a big guy, he also had a big tender heart," Hsu said.

"He was such a friendly person," Kang said. "He always had a smile on his face."

"As Daniel would say, 'just chillin' and hangin' out are the memories I will treasure," said Chi Phi President Lowery D. Duvall '05.

Mun is survived by his parents, Dr. and Mrs. Andrew Mun, and his brother Thomas.



EDWARD PLATT—THE TECH

Students at Senior House display rainbow flags from their windows Monday afternoon in support of gay marriage and as a protest against MIT's new flag policy.



Monks design a mandala at Simmons Hall.

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NEWS

Vest addresses the GSC.

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More sophomores declare subjects exploratory this term.

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Upperclassmen offer advice to freshman on what factors to consider when choosing a major.

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WORLD & NATION

For A Nation In Need Of A Plan, Russia Desires To Be Left Alone

THE NEW YORK TIMES

KOSTROMA, RUSSIA

There is almost no sign of a presidential election campaign here in the Russian heartland, and apparently there is very little desire for one.

From shoemaker to shopkeeper to hunter to teacher, it seems that almost everyone is backing the incumbent president, Vladimir V. Putin.

One after another, in two days of interviews in this small city and in the nearby town of Susanino, cited the same reasons — and one after another showed a remarkable lack of enthusiasm.

“At least he’s not making things worse,” said Lyuba Smirnova, 38, who sells cheap clothing at an outdoor market. “Before him, things were unpredictable. Now they are more stable. That’s the most important thing.”

Putin is not a colorful character, and if anything, that seems to be a plus for him. People say they admire him for his seriousness, sobriety, decisiveness and air of command.

Documents Show Shell Executives Knew Of Dip In Reserves In 2002

THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

The new head of the Royal/Dutch Shell Group and its current chief financial officer, as well as the chairman ousted last week, were advised of huge shortfalls in proven oil and natural gas reserves in 2002, two years before they were publicly disclosed, according to company memorandums and notes of executive discussions.

But rather than disclose the problems to investors, senior executives in a July 2002 memorandum came up with — and later carried out — what it described as an “external storyline” and “investor relations script” that tried to “highlight major projects fueling growth,” “stress the strength” of existing resources, and minimize the significance of reserves as a measure of growth.

Problems with reserves were discussed among senior executives months earlier.

A February 2002 memorandum said that a billion barrels of reserves “are no longer fully aligned” with Securities and Exchange Commission rules because the agency had clarified them. The memorandum said that an additional 1.3 billion barrels of reserves were at risk because it was no longer certain that they could be extracted during the remaining term of licenses between the company and three foreign countries.

Supreme Court Refuses To Hear Boy Scouts’ Appeal

THE BOSTON GLOBE

WASHINGTON

The Supreme Court cleared the way Monday for state and local governments to enforce gay-rights laws by barring the Boy Scouts of America from government benefits because of its ban on homosexual members or leaders.

The court had ruled four years ago that states or cities may not force the Scouts to admit gays into their ranks, but the youth organization had sought protection against what it considers indirect, official pressure to change its policy.

In an appeal the Supreme Court refused to hear, the Scouts argued that it is unconstitutional discrimination for Connecticut to exclude the organization from an annual charity fund-raising drive among state employees. The Scouts said the state was singling it out for official “punishment” based on its moral opposition to homosexuality.

Iraqi Constitution Is Signed Despite Shiite Reservations

By Dexter Filkins

THE NEW YORK TIMES

BAGHDAD, IRAQ

Iraq’s leaders signed an interim constitution on Monday and agreed to embark on a common path toward democratic rule, but the celebratory mood was marred by calls from the country’s most powerful Shiite leaders to amend the new charter before it goes into force.

The signing ceremony for the interim constitution, delayed once because of terrorist attacks and again because of a political deadlock, unfolded without a hitch inside the fortified confines of the American compound. Each of the 25 members of the Iraqi Governing Council signed it or had a representative do so.

The document, with its bill of rights and guarantees for women, was hailed by Iraqi and American leaders as a milestone in the project to implant a democracy here less than a year after the regime of Saddam Hussein was swept away.

Yet immediately after the ceremony ended, Shiite leaders, representing the country’s largest group, brought forth sharp reservations that called into question the viability of the accord.

A leading Shiite member of the council, saying he spoke for 12 of the 13 Shiites on the council, read a statement saying they intended to amend key portions of the document that they considered undemocratic.

Ibrahim Jafari, a Shiite council member, said the group had endorsed the interim constitution in order to preserve the unity of the country. But Jafari made it clear that the Shiite leaders intended to the rewrite portions of the constitution before June 30, when the Americans plan to transfer sovereignty to the Iraqi people.

“We say here our decision to sign the document is pegged to reservations,” Jafari said.

The main issue concerns the mechanism by which the permanent constitution is to be ratified. The Shiites object to a provision in the interim constitution that they say grants the Kurds veto power over the permanent constitution, which is supposed to be written after elections are held this year or next.

The Shiites also object to language that bars changes in the document signed Monday, except with the approval of the government and national assembly, to be elected by January 2005.

The objections of the Shiite politicians received the endorsement of the country’s most powerful religious leader, Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Husseini al-Sistani, who released a fatwa later in the afternoon in which he declared that the charter would create obstacles to an agreement a permanent constitution.

In his statement, al-Sistani said that the interim constitution would lack legitimacy until it was approved by a democratically elected national assembly. Under the most favorable circumstances, that is not likely to happen until the end of the year.

“This law places obstacles in the path of reaching a permanent constitution for the country that maintains its unity, the rights of sons of all sects and ethnic backgrounds,” al-Sistani’s fatwa said.

Together, the reservations portend a shakier future for the interim constitution than American officials and some Iraqi leaders had hoped for.

Still, the immediate impact of the protest was less than clear. The ayatollah, who has involved himself deeply in negotiations over the country’s future, did not denounce the interim constitution or call on his followers to reject it.

Bush: 1995 Kerry Intelligence Bill Was ‘Deeply Irresponsible’

By Richard W. Stevenson and Jodi Wilgoren

THE NEW YORK TIMES

HOUSTON

President Bush accused Sen. John Kerry on Monday of having tried to “gut” the nation’s intelligence services in 1995 when Kerry introduced legislation that would have cut intelligence spending by \$1.5 billion over five years.

On a day of rock-’em, sock-’em politics unusual for such an early stage of a presidential campaign, Bush said the 1995 legislation, proposed two years after the first attack on the World Trade Center, undermined his Democratic rival’s claim to have given the nation the intelligence tools it needs.

“His bill was so deeply irresponsible that he didn’t have a single co-sponsor in the United States Senate,” Bush told donors at a fund-raiser in Dallas. “Once again, Senator Kerry is trying to have it both ways. He’s for good intelligence, yet he was willing to gut the intelligence services. And that is no way to lead a nation in a time of war.”

Kerry’s campaign responded that Bush’s attacks were misleading and that Kerry had a long record of supporting increased spending on intelligence agencies.

“He voted against a proposed billion-dollar bloat in the intelligence budget, because it was essentially a slush fund for defense contractors,” Chad Clanton, a spokesman for the Kerry campaign, said in a statement. “Unlike George Bush, John Kerry does not and will not support every special spending project supported by Halliburton and other defense contractor.”

Kerry, campaigning in the critical general-election battleground of Florida, continued to criticize the Bush administration’s intelligence failures leading up to the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

“If the president of the United States can find time to go to a rodeo, he can find the time to do more than one hour in front of a commission that is investigating what happened to Americas intelligence,” Kerry said at a rally in West Palm Beach on Monday afternoon.

WEATHER

Winter Lingers

By Nikki Privé

STAFF METEOROLOGIST

*Poets, writing your odes to spring
Your poems of stanzas ten
Haste to finish, for moods of March
Are changeful as moods of men.
I tried it once, but the wind veered north,
And the ink froze on my pen.*

— Ellen P. Allerton

The low pressure system which brought light snow to the Boston area yesterday has moved off to the east. A weak high pressure region will build over southern New England during midweek, but skies will remain partly cloudy with daytime highs a few degrees below normal. Late in the week, a new low pressure system is expected to develop over the southeastern US, which may result in some wintry precipitation.

Extended Forecast

Today: Mostly cloudy, highs in the mid 30s°F (1°C).

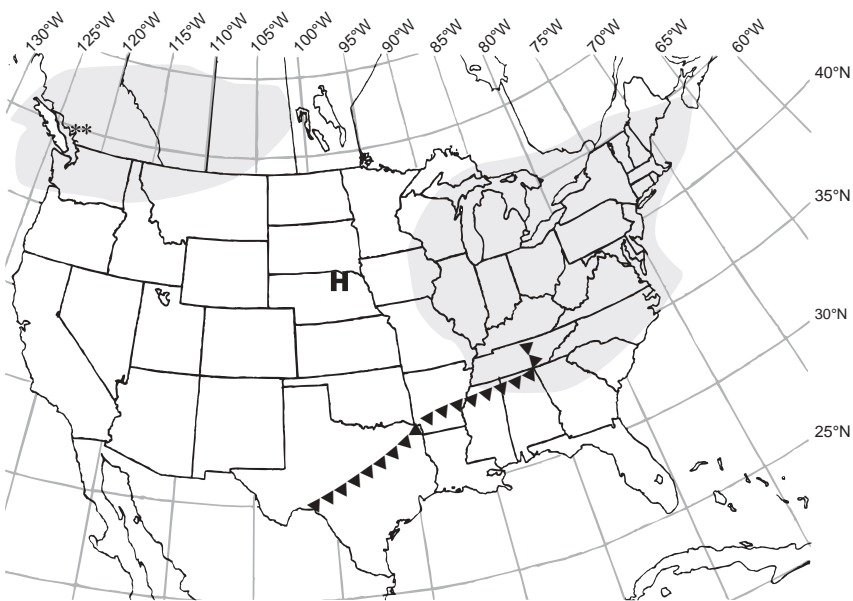
Tonight: Partly cloudy, lows around 25°F (-4°C).

Wednesday: Partly cloudy, cooler, high around 38°F (3°C), overnight lows around 30°F (-1°C).

Thursday: Partly cloudy, high around 40°F (4°C), low 30 F (-1°C).

Friday: Chance of morning snow, highs around 40°F (4°C).

Situation for Noon Eastern Time, Tuesday, March 9, 2004



Weather Systems	Weather Fronts	Precipitation Symbols	Other Symbols
H High Pressure	Trough	Snow	Fog
L Low Pressure	Warm Front	Rain	Thunderstorm
Hurricane	Cold Front	Light	Haze
	Stationary Front	Moderate	
		Heavy	

Compiled by MIT Meteorology Staff and The Tech

Alexandre Assumes Office While Aristide Criticizes ‘Occupation’

By Susan Milligan
THE BOSTON GLOBE

PORT-AU-PRINCE

President Boniface Alexandre officially assumed office in this still-unsettled nation Monday, while demonstrators outside his new office vowed they would die to restore exiled leader Jean-Bertrand Aristide to power.

A day after a bloody shoot-out that killed seven people in an otherwise peaceful, anti-Aristide march, U.S. Marines acknowledged that they shot and killed one alleged gunman and wounded another. The shootings mark the first time U.S. troops have hurt or killed someone during their 10-day presence as peace-enforcers in Haiti.

Aristide, who fled the country in late February under immense political pressure from the United States and a looming security threat from

armed rebels making their way to the capital from the north, Monday denounced what he called his “abduction” from his troubled nation.

“I am the elected president and I remain the elected president,” Aristide told reporters in his first public appearance since his exile to the Central African Republic. He appealed to his supporters to counter what he called the “occupation” of Haiti by foreign troops.

The State Department warned Aristide not to try to return. “If Mr. Aristide really wants to serve his country, he really has to, we think, let his nation get on with the future and not try to stir up the past again,” said spokesman Richard Boucher.

Haitians still expressed fear Monday after a Sunday demonstration turned from a celebratory march to a violent attack from gun-

men witnesses said were perched alongside the route of the massive rally. Locals believe the shooters — who killed six people, including a foreign journalist, and wounded more than 30 — were members of the “chimeres,” an armed gang sympathetic to Aristide.

The downtown streets Monday were unusually quiet, and locals who did venture outside questioned the ability of the US and French troops who comprise the bulk of the multinational forces here to maintain security in post-Aristide Haiti.

Some residents said they wanted to bring back insurgency leader Guy Philippe, who pledged to US forces he would lay down his arms now that Aristide was gone. And many believe that both the foreign troops and domestic police on Sunday failed a test of their will and ability to control political or gang violence here.

Former Mexican President Reveals ‘88 Presidential Election Was Rigged

By Ginger Thompson
THE NEW YORK TIMES

MEXICO CITY

President Miguel de la Madrid governed Mexico for most of the 1980s, through one of its most painful economic crises, a devastating earthquake and a period of diplomatic tensions with the United States. But perhaps the most widely scrutinized act of his presidency came on the night in 1988 that his successor, Carlos Salinas de Gortari, was elected.

In an autobiography that began circulating in Mexico this week, de la Madrid sheds more light on that dark night in Mexico’s history. What he reveals is not new, political analysts said. But in 850 pages, de la Madrid’s memoirs give the firmest confirmation to date of one

of this country’s biggest open secrets: the presidential elections of 1988 were rigged.

Political analysts and historians have described that election as one of the most egregious examples of the fraud that allowed the Institutional Revolutionary Party to control this country for more than seven decades, and the beginning of the end of its authoritarian rule.

Initial results from areas around the capital showed that Salinas was losing badly to the opposition leader Cuauhtemoc Cardenas. “I felt like a bucket of ice water had fallen on me,” de la Madrid recalled. “I became afraid that the results were similar across the country and that the PRI would lose the presidency.”

Thus began the frantic staging of a fraudulent victory. In his writing

of the event, the all-powerful former president chooses his words carefully and describes himself more like a supporting actor than the lead strategist. If he did anything wrong, it was on the advice of his staff, and for the stability of the nation.

On election night 1988, de la Madrid said, the secretary of the interior advised him that the initial results were running heavily against the PRI. The public demanded returns, de la Madrid wrote. And rather than giving them, the government lied and said that the computer system tabulating the votes had crashed.

This was the advice to de la Madrid from the president of the PRI: “You have to proclaim the triumph of the PRI. It is a tradition that we cannot break without causing great alarm among the citizens.”

Japan And France Compete For Big Fusion Project

THE NEW YORK TIMES

ROKKASHO, JAPAN

If the Japanese have their way, this village in northern Japan, an area known for its apples and sea cucumbers, will become home to a project that could give birth to the energy of the future.

The project, ITER, for International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor, would try to emulate the sun’s nuclear fusion to produce safe, clean and inexhaustible energy. The 30-year, \$12 billion research center would be the second largest international scientific project after the International Space Station.

Officials from six countries participating in the project are to meet in March to try to decide between Rokkasho and Cadarache, in southern France, even as talks have become increasingly tinged with politics.

After officials failed to decide between the two in a meeting in Washington in December, Spencer Abraham, the Bush administration’s energy secretary, declared that the Japanese site was superior.

The statement angered the Europeans, leading the French prime minister, Jean-Pierre Raffarin, to threaten to withdraw from the project and go it alone if France was not selected. In the French news media, the dispute over the site is being viewed through the prism of the war in Iraq: American support for Japan’s candidacy in return for Tokyo’s backing in Iraq.

American and Japanese officials dismiss that view, but support for the two sites is split along the divisions over the war in Iraq: the United States, Japan and South Korea back Rokkasho; Russia, China and France, with the European Union, are for Cadarache.

Protest In Syria Draws Quick, And Firm, Response

THE NEW YORK TIMES

DAMASCUS, SYRIA

The security police quickly squelched an extremely rare public demonstration demanding political reform on Monday, the 41st anniversary of the Baath Party seizing power here.

Organizers and other reform advocates said the police presence in downtown Damascus, which far outnumbered the demonstrators, was a sign of just how jittery the government and security services remain after the fall of the Baath Party in neighboring Iraq.

Rights advocates and others seeking reform planned to draw attention to their petition demanding the lifting of emergency laws, which have been in place throughout Baath Party rule since 1963, by staging a sit-in at the gates of Parliament. The reform advocates say they have gathered 7,000 signatures to support their demands.

But when the band of 20 to 30 people unfurled a few paper banners reflecting their demands, dozens of plainclothes security officers pounced. They shredded the banners and ripped up the notebooks of some of the reporters covering the protest, igniting numerous scuffles.

The security police began rounding up the demonstrators and others at the scene, including this reporter, a photographer for The New York Times, a reporter for the BBC and a junior diplomat from the U.S. Embassy. The foreign reporters were driven to a police station, given several rounds of coffee and tea and then sent on their way with an apology after an hour.

Sophomores! It’s not too late.

The Cambridge-MIT Exchange program is still taking applications for next year!

Thinking about applying but still not sure about whether you’ll get enough transfer credit...? Want to know more about the program and Cambridge?

Meet Dr. David Good from Cambridge University: This is your chance to ask questions and get answers!

Wednesday, March 10

3 – 5 pm

Room 6-203

(Refreshments)

OPINION

Williams/Vasquez for UAP/VP



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There tend to be more qualities that liken MIT student public officers to each other than qualities that separate them. The tickets of David Smith/Noelle Kanaga and Harel Williams/

Editorial

Phillip Vasquez share remarkable similarities: improving communication and the students' awareness about the Undergraduate Association, making student government accountable, improving cooperation between the UA and the different student governments, and improving student input in administrative policies and decisions. Both tickets seek to change the flag policy and improve student input on orientation.

The teams also have prior experience in the UA or are familiar with its committees and internal structure. Smith has served on the committee on housing and orientation, Kanaga has chaired the subcommittee on athletics and is a member of the Committee for Student Life (CSL), Williams is on the Coordinating Committee and the CSL, and Vasquez has attended some of the Senate meetings as an Interfraternity Council representative.

However, the two teams differ in their visions in implementation. Smith and Kanaga view the UA's purpose as mediator between the four other student governments: IFC, Panhellenic Association, Living Group Council, and Dormcon. They believe the UA should have the role of connecting, rather than just acting. Overall, they believe the function of UA should be to work with the student governments to allocate and distribute resources, and to allow more feedback from these governing bodies to develop their own projects of interest. One such idea was to reform Ubercomm, which although consists of representatives from IFC, Panhel, LGC, and Dormcon, does not meet very frequently. Another idea involved the creation of a responsibility document to enforce accountability to both the executive boards of the different governing groups and the constituents.

Williams and Vasquez have a slightly different focus. Instead of solely working with the governments, they want to implement a personal, one-on-one approach. Although they will try to increase communication between the UA and the governments by attending the governments' meetings, their primary

focus is meeting with the constituents of those governments. Specifically, they have and plan to meet with the presidents of different dormitories and living groups. They also plan to improve the average students' access to the UA with "UA tooling" and dinners at the living groups. They have demonstrated that they will dedicate the time and effort in implementing this goal, and have already begun conversations with living groups. Their other communication goals seem less likely to produce an effect, but are indeed admirable. Smith and Kanaga's admirable plan to improve the connectivity of the governments and the accountability of those governments to the constituents, do not have specific personal commitments to improve or solicit constituent feedback to the UA.

Another difference between the two teams seems to be teamwork. Smith is the driving force behind his ticket. In contrast, Williams and Vasquez showed great teamwork, not only in their shared vision and enthusiasm, but in their participation during the debates and during an interview with *The Tech*. Based on this observation, it seems more likely that Williams and Vasquez would work better together and accomplish more than Smith and Kanaga given the display of joint initiative.

Lastly, Williams and Vasquez list a long and extensive list of goals, yet they were frank in their admission that not all their goals may be accomplished — a tendency rarely seen in candidates listing many goals. In addition, they explicitly acknowledged that most of these goals would be accomplished by cooperating with other UA members. Smith and Kanaga should be lauded for limiting their goals in order to provide concrete results, but they have not explicitly acknowledged the need to work with other members within the UA.

We respect both teams of candidates and their goals: both teams agree on the importance of communication and wish to improve student input. However, given the commitment expressed by Williams and Vasquez to personal contact with constituents, their team dynamic, and their ability to see themselves working with the UA itself, we endorse Williams and Vasquez for UA President and Vice President.

Vivek Rao has recused himself from this editorial.

Letters To The Editor

The Case for Ring Simplicity

I would like to express my agreement with Devdoot Majumdar's column "The Fraudulent Ring Tradition" [Mar. 5]. I am a member of the class of 2002, and I too do not have a ring. I did not purchase a ring because I was not pleased with the design, which included, among other things, an MIT seal altered to include a woman. It wasn't that I object to women at MIT, or believe that women contribute nothing to science; rather that I felt it was foolish to pretend that a seal including a man and a woman is the seal of MIT. I did not wish to spend my life explaining to other alumni why my brass rat included a false seal.

At the time, I expressed my opposition to this in several e-mail discussions, pointing out that this ring is supposed to represent the sum of our MIT experience, and altering the MIT seal was hardly the defining point of my four years. Upon suggesting that perhaps a more traditional design was in order, I was told in no uncertain terms by the ring committee that there was no such thing as a traditional design and the ring committee changed the design each year as a tradition.

As Majumdar said in his column, this "tradition" is fraudulent. Discussions with older MIT alumni reveal that in the past, the ring committee was charged primarily with locating a jeweler and taking orders, and the design was largely unchanged. Indeed, comparing images of the 1961 and 1933 brass rats reveals that they are quite similar: the top

face features the beaver standing on its hind legs; one side of the shank features the outline of the Great Dome and its columns, and below that the class year; the other side features the same outline of the Dome, and below that the letters "MIT." And that's it. It's a fairly simple design. There's no seal to offend people, and no personalization save for the class year and, if they so desire, the owner's initials.

It is this lack of personalization that I find the most important. It is arrogant at worst and naive at best for the ring committee (or any small group of people) to think they can determine the defining events for over 1,000 people over a four-year period. MIT is what you make of it. Sure, the end of dorm rush is sad, but I'm willing to bet many people had personal experiences in their lives to which the loss of rush pales in comparison. When it comes right down to it, the only thing you have in common with every other member of your class is your class year. One can only assume that is why the ring committees in the distant past felt it was the only feature on the ring that should differ from year to year. And given the lack of controversy surrounding those rings, one can only assume that they were right.

Jonathan D. Reed '02

The True Meaning of Marriage Protection

The March 3 edition of *The New York Times* had a letter that I think made a concise

and clear statement regarding what the United States Constitution should say regarding gay marriage, and I feel it bears repeating. Julian H. Breen wrote to *The Times* that a true marriage protection amendment to the U.S. Constitution would be: "'The right of couples within the jurisdiction of the United States to enjoy the rights and benefits of marriage shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any state on account of race, color, national origin, gender, or sexual orientation.'"

Such an amendment seems like it would fit much better than any of the current amendments under discussion, both for Massachusetts and for the United States. We would do well, also, to remember that church and state are separated in the U.S. Constitu-

Continued, next page

Errata

An article last Tuesday, March 2 ["Women's Fencing crowned New England Champions"] misstates which team member wrote the article. The author is Lynn Wong, not Priscilla del Castillo.

In the photo essay on Friday, March 5 ["Mun Memorial Service Held at Chapel"], the caption of the bottom left photograph misidentifies the subject. He is Jeff Hsu '05, not Dexter Ang '05.

Opinion Policy

Editorials are the official opinion of *The Tech*. They are written by the editorial board, which consists of the chairman, editor in chief, opinion editor, and a senior editor.

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Defeating Lobby 7 Kiosks

George Waksman

7-100LA, more commonly known as Lobby 7, is one of the most beautiful locations at MIT, Killian Court being its only competition. These places are beautiful not for what they have, but for what they do not have: clutter.

Understanding the beauty of these places is not difficult and does not require any great eye for aesthetics, but just some patience. Go to Killian or Lobby 7, choose a place to stand, sit, or lie, and look around. Appreciate the dome, the sky, the space or whatever you like; just appreciate the beauty of the emptiness.

I have seen the many faces of Lobby 7. I was a freshmen during the height of renovations and it was a horrible place. During renovations, Lobby 7 was a network of tight corridors between scaffolding; it was cramped and oppressive. When renovations were completed and Lobby 7 was itself again, I found myself invigorated every time that I came to campus. Enter the doors of 77 Mass. Ave. or walk out of the Infinite Corridor and suddenly everything opens up. Glance up at the dome, then left and right; the beauty sinks in for just a moment and you are off to your destination. Maybe if you have some time, you sit on one of the pedestals, have lunch, watch the people, or just relax.

But, a horrible thing has happened to Lobby 7: the information kiosks. Those cold metal prisms scattered in Lobby 7 to provide information destroy the space. Enter Lobby 7. Look left, see a kiosk directly in front of you; look right, see a kiosk directly in front of you. Your time is up and you are off to your destination without the moment of beauty that Lobby 7 would otherwise provide. The kiosks are a hideous abomination that must be defeated.

Enter Lobby 7. Look left, see a kiosk directly in front of you; look right, see a kiosk directly in front of you. Your time is up and you are off to your destination without the moment of beauty that Lobby 7 would otherwise provide.

The kiosks have wheels and I thought this to be their saving grace. For the past month, almost every morning, I have diligently moved the kiosks to the sides of Lobby 7, restoring its splendor. I do not move the kiosks for myself alone. I move the kiosks for everyone that sees MIT: I move the kiosks for the students and faculty on their way to class and lab; I move the kiosks for the visitors to marvel at the splendor of MIT; and I especially move the kiosks for the children and high school students that enter Lobby 7, look around, and are given that slight hint of how wonderful all of MIT really is. Alas, I have been told not to move the kiosks because the information they contain is so important that it outweighs the destruction of aesthetic beauty.

Let it be known, that I take no quarrel with the information on the kiosks and consider their role to be important. But the implementation is flawed. Perhaps the kiosks could find a new home where they will not destroy an architectural masterpiece. Maybe we could bring back the drop-posters of pre-renovation times, which did not interfere with the space and also served to remind us that MIT is a friendly student-oriented place. Or maybe, there is another way that we can display our information and have our lobby, too.

The salvation of Lobby 7 is not something that I can accomplish on my own. If you have any say over the kiosks, please reconsider their value. If you have something to announce, don't use the kiosks but find another way; hang a drop-poster, post somewhere else, or find a creative alternative. Or just push the kiosks out of the way as a sign that you, too, recognize their evil.

George Waksman is a member of the class of 2005.

Chen Zhao

Super Tuesday has come and gone, with the predicted result. Senator John Kerry, barring some tremendous mishap, will be the nominee at this summer's Democratic National Convention, right here in his home city of Boston. Now, he has eight months in which to face perhaps his largest challenge yet: unseating the incumbent, President Bush.

To attain this goal, Senator Kerry has to try to ingratiate himself with the common folk and try to dispel the image of him as the wealthy, privileged aristocrat that he is. This is not something he did very well in the primaries. Candidates, no matter how impressive their resume is or how much experience and knowledge they will bring to their post or how much the voters are actually in agreement with their stances on the issues, often have to overcome personality barriers. Nobody knows this better than Al Gore. In 2000, he was labeled as being "boring" and he was never able to rid himself of that characterization.

The media has already decided to make it their duty to point out the similarities in pedigree between George W. Bush and John Kerry and to wonder at the peculiarities inherent in Kerry, a descendant of British royalty, stumping about protecting the rights of the middle-class. This is epitomized in David Brooks's recent column in *The New York Times* entitled "Clash of Titans." Brooks labels Americans as hypocrites for calling ourselves a middle-class, democratic nation when we really just love the blue-bloods like the Kerrys and Bushes of the world. I beg to differ. We may be fascinated by royalty and the rich and famous, but we also are a country that loves and cheers for the underdog, and that wants to and does give every opportunity to those who do not get everything handed to them on a silver platter. We may have among our presidents the Kennedys and Roosevelts and Washingtons, but we also have our Lincolns and

Making Over John Kerry

Jacksons. To this end, Kerry has to shed the image of wealth as much as possible so as to not put off a country in which the voting population is dominated by the middle-class.

So just how similar are Kerry and Bush and just how unrepresentative is Kerry of the common man? As is often pointed out, both Kerry and Bush went to Yale (Kerry was two years ahead of Bush) and both were members of Skull and Bones, a small, top-secret, elite fraternity for sons (and recently some daughters) of very prominent families. Skull and Bones counts three U.S. presidents, two Chief Justices of the Supreme Court, over twenty Senators, and many other Congressmen, cabinet officers, judges, and state officials among its membership. Both of the candidates are also descendants of British royalty and especially strange is the fact that both families can be traced back to Queen Elizabeth I. Bush can also lay claim to Henry III, his wife, Mary Tudor, and her brother, Louis XI, and Charles II as ancestors. Kerry wins the royalty contest with a few more royal branches as he is directly descended from King James I and his bloodlines run straight through the Windsor and Hanover families. As if this was not enough, Kerry's ancestors also include John Winthrop, the first governor of Massachusetts and he is somehow related to just about every prominent family that has existed in the Boston area, including the Forbes family through his mother. Both men come from enormous wealth, but Kerry's fortune of over \$300 million from his first wife and over \$500 million from his current wife — widow of the ketchup man himself, John Heinz — along with all the money he was born with, poses a stark contrast to the meager savings accounts of most Democrats.

So it has been clearly established that neither man is anything like the rest of the pop-

ulation. Bush, however, was seen by a quite a few as representative of the common man though in the 2000 election. It might have been his affinity for relaxed attire while trimming shrubs on his Texas ranch (which, by the way, is worth how many millions of dollars?) or his use of simplistic and often times, incomprehensible, speech. Many felt that they could relate to him. Thus, Bush has proven that being from such a privileged background does not preclude one from being viewed as a more or less common man.

Can John Kerry accomplish the same feat? He has certainly tried. During the primaries, he avoided all references to his initials (J.F.K. for John Forbes Kerry) so that he would not suffer comparisons to that other prominent liberal from Massachusetts. John Edwards still took every opportunity to point out the differences between himself and Kerry. Edwards, born poor, is a product of public schools (North Carolina State University and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill) since his family could not afford private school tuition. Kerry spent his childhood at a Swiss boarding school and St. Paul's before heading to Yale. Despite the fact that Edwards has made millions from being a trial lawyer, polls showed that while people voted for Kerry because he was given the label "electable," people liked Edwards because they could connect with him.

Kerry has already been tagged as stuffy and elitist, but with eight months to go, it's not too late to turn that around. He and his campaign need to show the people that John Kerry can operate on the same level as you and I. In this crucial election year, while Bush-hating might suffice as a reason for some to vote for Kerry, swing voters will also want to be able to like Kerry before they cast their ballots for him.

Twisted Logic from the Syrian Ambassador

Marc Haddad

The new Syrian Ambassador to the United States, Dr. Imad Moustapha, spoke on March 2 at MIT about Middle East peace, a topic of controversy and contradictions by most any account.

What was unusual about this talk is that the speaker himself seemed full of contradictions, perhaps more so than the issues he discussed. Moustapha set the tone early on by expressing his admiration for the MIT community, then promptly proceeded to insult our intelligence with twisted logic, albeit in a very polite way. Yet since he appeared to be genuinely interested in dialogue, I would like to give him here the positive feedback he solicited.

To start with, the ambassador's claim that Syria is for a peaceful resolution of all conflicts in the Middle East is very questionable, since Syria still supports militant groups in the region, some of which are under its direct tutelage and/or protection. Just this past October, U.S. State Department Coordinator for Counterterrorism called Syria "a sponsor of numerous terrorist organizations," citing groups like HAMAS and Hizbollah. And even if one is to believe, in good faith, the ambassador's claims that the Syrian regime is now against the use of force, then why is it that force and oppression are still being used

inside Syria to restrict freedoms and deprive the Syrian people of their basic human rights in a situation documented by respected organizations like Human Rights Watch? By the same token, if the Syrian regime is against the use of military force in Iraq and Israel because force doesn't resolve conflicts as the ambassador stated, then why is it that Syria maintains an occupation force of roughly 20,000 troops in neighboring Lebanon? Why not 20,000 Red Cross workers instead?

The ambassador proceeded to say that his country's 30-year long occupation of Lebanon can not be called an occupation, because not a single bullet has been fired against the Syrian army since the end of the Lebanese civil war 12 years ago. Apparently, the ambassador is not impressed by the hundreds of peaceful student demonstrations against Syrian occupation inside and outside Lebanon; maybe we should conclude that Moustapha only understands the language of force in which he claims he doesn't believe?

I'd like to remind the ambassador that the reason the Lebanese have stopped firing at the Syrian army is because they have already turned in their weapons at the end of the civil war as provided for by the Syrian-sponsored Taif Accord of 1989, which also stipulated a that Syria relocate its troops by 1992 from Beirut and other major cities to the Beqaa Valley and establish a timetable for its com-

plete withdrawal (see http://www.meib.org/articles/0307_11.htm for more details). Now, 12 years later, this complete withdrawal has still not occurred.

But perhaps the most blatant piece of twisted logic came in the ambassador's claim that he was not part of the Syrian establishment, as the obvious easy way out of having to answer for all that establishment's offenses. This attempt at self-exoneration removed any remaining shred of personal credibility that I was still hoping for, and I'm sure it failed to pass the litmus test by anyone looking for signs of real change from the Syrian regime.

What the ambassador needs to learn here and convey to his government back home is that no one is duped by their attempts at putting a friendly face one a repressive regime. As Charles Dickens once wrote: "Charity begins at home, and justice begins next door," and we are still waiting to see real reform in Syria and a withdrawal of Syrian troops from neighboring Lebanon. The failed experience of Iraq's Information Minister Mohammed Al-Sahaf should be the best indication to Dr. Moustapha that spin doctors cannot hide and twist the truth for very long, and that while America may still get most of its oil from the Middle East, people can nonetheless easily tell when it's of the snake-oil variety.

Marc Haddad is a doctoral candidate in Technology Management and Policy.

Letters To The Editor

Continued from previous page

tion. State-recognized gay marriage does not in any way tread on religious freedom or force any religion to recognize such partnerships. Recognition by the state simply and importantly gives gay couples the same rights and respect afforded by the government to heterosexual couples, and if anything should be sacred in our democracy. It is equal protection under the law.

Michael S. Bradley '04

Dictionary Duds

As defined by the fourth edition of the *American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language*, the adjective "asinine" indicates something is "utterly stupid or silly." Truly articulate discourse should not require this

fourth-grade writing technique of quoting dictionary definitions. It's asinine, and an unnecessary literary hook for letters and opinions printed in *The Tech*.

Daniel M. Ratner G

When a Cause Trumps Regulations

In response to the conservative effort to amend the Massachusetts constitution to ban gay marriage, Senior House hung 50 gay pride flags outside of dorm windows to show support for our gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered residents at a time when they are struggling to defend their civil rights.

The pride flag has been used as a symbol of the solidarity of the gay rights movement since before most of our residents were born.

Communities throughout the United States fly the pride flag as a symbol of their support for gay civil rights. In demonstrating our support for the rights of our LBGT residents, we felt it most appropriate to fly the gay pride flag and evoke the spirit of inclusion for which it has stood throughout the gay rights movement.

We are cognizant and disappointed that MIT's flag policy forbids such a demonstration of support. At a time when our residents are defending their basic civil rights, the MIT flag policy prevents them from expressing their support in the way that has been used throughout the history of the gay rights movement. We feel that the policy of appeasement adopted by MIT with regard to flags is flawed when applied to a situation of such severity. When one's civil rights are in jeopardy, it is appropriate to err on the side of free speech even if it causes conflict.

Robert W. Sumner G

SUGAR & SPICE

Try a Charlotte Russe Today

Pear Layer Cake Not Impressive, But Worth a Try

By Marissa Cheng
STAFF WRITER

I've wanted to make a charlotte for as long as I can remember. Specifically, I've wanted to make a charlotte russe — there are two different kinds of charlottes. Your basic charlotte is a molded cake. Sponge cake or ladyfingers line the mold; the cake-lined mold is filled with cream or custard, and then topped with another layer of cake. The charlotte russe is essentially a kind of trifle.

The two kinds of charlottes are the charlotte russe and the fruit charlotte. While the charlotte russe stays true to the description above, fruit charlottes are made with buttered bread, filled with fruit, and baked. Fruit charlottes have been around for a long time; the charlotte russe was created by Carme, the

famed French cook and food historian, in the 19th century.

Having some masochistic tendencies, I decided to make my charlotte at the end of a week where I averaged about four hours of sleep a night. Luckily, I was not embarking on this adventure alone, but with a friend of mine who also likes to cook. Minutes before running out the door on Friday, already late, I glanced at the charlotte section of "The Cake Bible." My friend had mentioned wanting to try the pear charlotte in one of her cookbooks, so I chose the pear charlotte in mine.

The Ethereal Pear Charlotte in "The Cake Bible" has a base and sides made of sponge cake and is layered with raspberry jam, a filling of Bavarian cream, and a topping of slices of poached pears. It is probably also the most complicated thing I've ever made, with a total preparation time of three hours to make, and then an additional four to set in the refrigerator.

Our pear charlotte was molded in a nine-inch spring form pan. After making the sponge cake, which came out quite nicely, we omitted the use of "very sharp shears" to cut the sponge into the appropriate sizes, instead using a

slightly dull knife (that worked just fine). The pieces of cake were layered with raspberry jam, and then put in the freezer to set while we poached the pears in a sugar-and-white-wine syrup. Half an hour later, we assembled the cake in the mold, cutting off thin strips of the block of cake, in order to achieve the pin-striped effect on the sides of the charlotte.

Then came the fun part: the Bavarian cream. I'd never made Bavarian cream and I didn't know what it actually was. Bavarian cream consists of custard that is stabilized with gelatin (or isinglass a hundred years ago), and is then mixed with whipped cream and Italian meringue. For those who don't know, Italian meringue is a basic meringue

with the sugar beaten in as a sugar syrup (very slowly). The heat from the sugar syrup, which is cooked to soft-ball stage (248°F), slightly cooks the egg whites, and also acts as a stabilizer.

The Bavarian cream was fun to make. Ours was a pear Bavarian cream; the custard was flavored with the liquid from poaching the pears. As I was whisking the custard in a cold water bath, cursing myself for not having thickened it enough on the stovetop, it suddenly thickened to the right consistency (when traces of whisk marks start to appear). We quickly folded in the meringue and the whipped cream, then poured it in the cake-lined mold. Fifteen minutes later, the charlotte was topped with slices of pear and in the fridge.

How did the charlotte measure up to our anticipation? Sadly, it was more presentation than substance. The Bavarian cream was heavenly, and so were the pears, but overall, it just didn't have the showstopping effect that we were expecting. I'd like to try another charlotte sometime, but probably not this one.



MARISSA CHENG—THE TECH

The charlotte russe is like a truffle filled with custard.

WMBR's Top Albums

Here are some of the most American roots/folk records currently on WMBR, 88.1 FM, MIT's student-staffed radio station.

1. **Tarbox Ramblers** "A Fix back East"
2. **John Fahey** "The Best of John Fahey, Vol. 2: 1964-1983"
3. **James McMurtry** "Live in Aught-Three"
4. **Grant Lee Phillips** "Virginia Creeper"
5. **Bonnie Bramlett** "I'm Still the Same"
6. **Charlie Patton** "The Best of Charlie Patton"
7. **Southern Culture on the Skids** "Mojo Box"
8. **Natalie Merchant** "The House Carpenter's Daughter"
9. **Flatlanders** "Wheels of Fortune"
10. **Jon Langford** "All the Fame of Lofty Deeds"

To hear these and many other artists, tune in to 88.1 FM or at <http://wmbbr.mit.edu> for live streaming MP3. Visit the website for WMBR's program schedule.

SOURCE: WMBR



(top) Frederick Harris conducts Persichetti's "Symphony No. 6, Op. 69," the last piece of the MIT Wind Ensemble Concert on Friday night.

(left) John C. Thomas '07 plays the baritone sax in the MIT Wind Ensemble performance of Bach's "The Art of Fugue."

Photography by Sylvia Yang.



Beavers, turkeys, and
penguins, oh my.

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Trio

A tribute to the ladies of Trio: alum.mit.edu/www/emie

by Emezie Okorafor

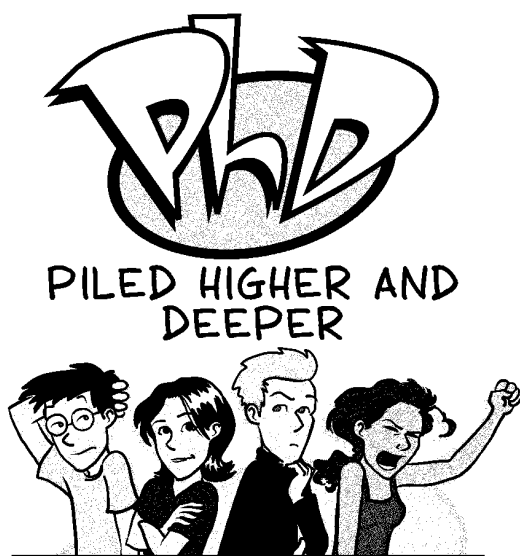


The Dramatic Finale of Sex and the City

by Brian Loux



Which is why I watch Sopranos.

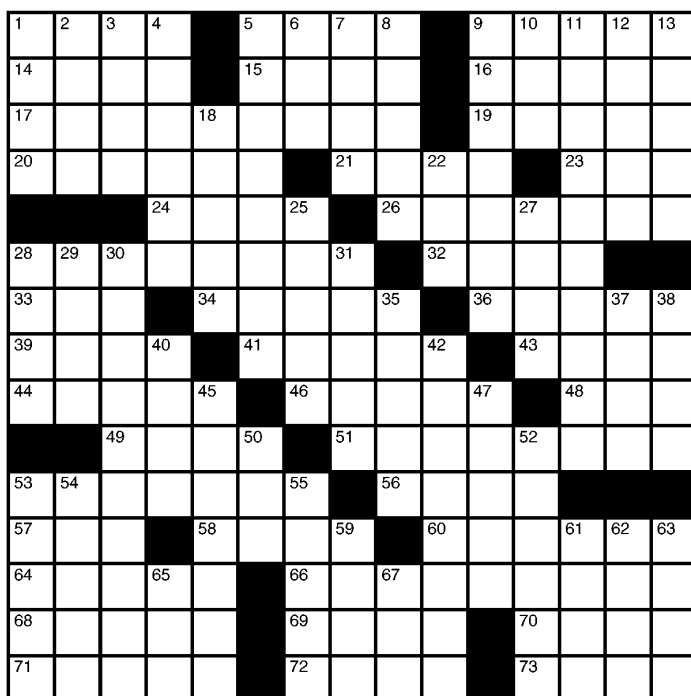


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Crossword Puzzle

Solution, page 17

- ACROSS
- 1 Renowned Babe
 - 5 Military cap
 - 9 Coffeehouses
 - 14 Out of the wind
 - 15 Sacred sign-off
 - 16 Hertz rival
 - 17 April mailing
 - 19 Person from Big D
 - 20 Cleopatra's Mark
 - 21 Writes
 - 23 Russ. jetfighter
 - 24 Scrimmage anchors
 - 26 Rescinds formally
 - 28 Courthouse filings
 - 32 Fine powder
 - 33 Tanguay of vaudeville
 - 34 Just right
 - 36 Exuberant cry
 - 39 Waiting-room call
 - 41 Genders
 - 43 1492 ship
 - 44 Clothe
 - 46 OK
 - 48 Oddball
 - 49 Info
 - 51 Like John Doe?
 - 53 La Scala voice
 - 56 Tiny pests
 - 57 Physicians' soc.
 - 58 Chew
 - 60 Country
 - 64 Expire
 - 66 Coltrane's instrument
 - 68 Possessive pronoun
 - 69 Pastoral poem
 - 70 Not for
 - 71 Whoppers
 - 72 Dimensions
 - 73 Heavyweight Spinks
- DOWN
- 1 Pro follower
 - 2 ___-Ude, Russia
 - 3 Written part
 - 4 Protagonists
 - 5 Garden serenaders
 - 6 Cassowary's cousin
 - 7 Criminal, to a cop
 - 8 Outer opposite
 - 9 Dupe
 - 10 Pub serving
 - 11 Mailbox, of sorts
 - 12 Cyber messages
 - 13 Tunes
 - 18 Boredom
 - 22 Seine
 - 25 Take the helm
 - 27 Zest
 - 28 Give temporarily
 - 29 Assert positively
 - 30 Kitchen roll
 - 31 Part of WASP
 - 35 On the up and up
 - 37 Burden
 - 38 Diet for doobin
 - 40 Russian ruler
 - 42 FSU player
 - 45 Broadway producers
 - 47 Brief summation
 - 50 Beattie or Blyth
 - 52 Fatal
 - 53 Like sailor's stories
 - 54 City on the Missouri
 - 55 Desert haven
 - 59 Dry ravine in Africa
 - 61 Bulwer-Lytton heroine
 - 62 Fully aware of
 - 63 Nuremberg negative
 - 65 Iniquity
 - 67 End of ABCs



FoxTrot by Bill Amend

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Chenrezig Mandala at MIT



BEN GALLUP—THE TECH



BEN GALLUP—THE TECH

(above) Tenzin Priyadarshi, a Buddhist chaplain and visiting scholar at MIT, adds finishing touches to the mandala Sunday morning.

(left) Tenzin Yignyen, a visiting Buddhist monk from Ithaca, NY, details the mandala Saturday morning.

(below) A large group gathers around the mandala at Simmons Hall as work wraps up Saturday evening.



PETER R. RUSSO—THE TECH



PETER R. RUSSO—THE TECH

For the second half of last week, Simmons Hall was host to the creation of a Tibetan Buddhist mandala, or sand painting. Buddhist monks began the construction of the mandala in the Simmons Hall auditorium Wednesday, March 3, and continued until the morning of Sunday, March 7. “Mandala” (pronounced MAN-da-la) is a Sanskrit word meaning cosmogram, or “world in harmony.” This specific mandala, the Chenrezig Mandala, symbolizes compassion, acceptance, and peace. On Monday, the mandala was dismantled and emptied into the Charles River to symbolize the Buddhist belief of the impermanence of all things and to distribute the healing energies created in the mandala.



BEN GALLUP—THE TECH

(above left) Tenzin Priyadarshi carefully applies fine grains of orange-colored sand to the mandala Saturday afternoon.

(left) The mandala contains highly detailed symbolic images, with three-dimensional content visible at the scale of this four-inch detail.

(right) Tenzin Yignyen empties the remainder of the collected mandala into the Charles River early Monday morning.



BEN GALLUP—THE TECH

Upperclassmen Offer Advice on Choosing a Major

By Joia Ramchandani

Freshmen, take note: the deadline for declaring your major is April 16. Do you know what your decision will be?

Feature

There are probably several key questions running through your mind: “what criteria should I take into account when selecting a major?”; “how important are issues like post-graduation opportunities, perceived difficulty, an open or structured curriculum, and gender balance?”; and “where do students stand on these issues and how much weight do they give to the various factors that go into choosing a major?”

There are a variety of ways to go about finding the answers to these questions, including interviewing upperclassmen, attending workshops and seminars, and researching facts and statistics online. As one would expect, interviews with upperclassmen give mixed feedback to each of these questions, but in the end, they raise

important points about what’s important in choosing a major.

Do not think too far ahead

The underlying opinion of the upperclassmen interviewed was that career opportunities in your major are not a key issue. Students feel that the right applications will follow if you pursue what you love.

Josh Peters G said that he believes it is important to do what you find to be “fundamentally interesting, even if your major isn’t as employable.”

Now you might ask, is it rather naïve and impractical to follow your heart’s desires without first analyzing the employability of your major? A relevant point, though, made by MIT career counselor Marilyn C. Wilson is that “there is no way to foresee what job markets will be like five to ten years down the road.”

Wilson encourages students to use their own interests to define a career path, not the other way around.

Do not be afraid of a challenge

Should you be concerned about the perceived difficulty level of a

major? That question is slightly misleading, because upperclassmen say that there is no “easy” major or a free ride at MIT. However, most students did agree that some majors are more intensive than others.

Upperclassmen say not to be daunted by the difficulty level of some majors. In fact, many advise you to embrace the challenge.

“I came to a challenging school so I might as well do a more challenging major,” said Course VI major Jessie Wang ’05. “If I am here, I want to be as intellectually challenged as possible. I might as well get the most out of my opportunities.”

Wang added that the process of coping with a challenging major teaches you several invaluable skills.

“You really learn a lot of analytical skills, time and stress management methods,” she said.

Some students point out that the best way to make your course load as manageable as possible is to do what you are interested in.

Concetta A. Maratta ’04, who is majoring in Course VI, said that MIT “is pretty intense as it is.”

“You really have to like your major to get through school,” she said. “If I didn’t like my major, I wouldn’t have been able to finish.”

“The things I learn about are so interesting that I don’t really care how difficult the major is” said Course II major Amy L. Wong ’05, who then proceeded to enthusiastically tell me all the interesting things she gets to learn about every day.

Gender imbalance not a problem

Are students bothered by uneven gender distributions across certain majors?

Peters said that the gender imbalance in Course VI is “noticeable, but not an issue.” That sentiment was echoed by several upperclassmen from both Course VI and VII.

According to the Registrar’s Office, about 75 percent of undergraduates in Course VI are male, and approximately 70 percent of undergraduates in Course VII are female.

In fact, some Course VI girls say that they are not intimidated by the preponderance of males and actually view the gender distribution in their major as a bonus, although not for the reasons you might think.

“Gender imbalance is a plus for me simply because I think it will

Choice of Major Resources

The following offices and people can help students learn about the various departments and choose the major that is best for them.

MIT Office Help

Office of Career Services and Preprofessional Advising (12-170, x3-4733)
Academic Resource Center (7-104, x3-6671)
MIT UROP Office (7-104, x3-7306)

Individual Course Help

Course I: Cynthia Stewart (1-281, x3-9723)
Course II: Undergraduate Office (1-104, x3-2305)
Course III: Caroline Ross (13-4005, x8-0223)
Course IV: Renee Caso (7-337H, x3-7792)
Course V: Rick Danheiser (18-298, x3-1842)
Course VI: Anne Hunter (38-476, x3-4654)
Course VII: Kathleen Long (68-120, x3-4718)
Course VIII: Brian Canavan (4-352, x3-4842)
Course IX: Molly Potter (NE20-453, x3-5526)
Course X: Michael Mohr (66-305, x3-2015)
Course XI: Robert Fogelson (9-639, x3-1671)
Course XII: Samuel Bowring (54-1126, x3-3775)
Course XIII: J. Kim Vandiver (7-131, x3-4366)
Course XIV: Gary King (E52-391, x3-0951)
Course XV: Jeffrey Meldman (E40-165, x3-4932)
Course XVI: Manuel Martinez-Sanchez (37-341, x3-5613)
Course XVII: Charles Stewart (E53-483, x3-3649)
Course XVIII: Michael Sipser (2-365, x3-4992)
Course XXIA: Rosie Hegg (16-265, x2-2837)
Course CMS: Chris Pomiecko (14N-207A, x3-3599)
Course XXIF: Andrea Wirth (14N-310, x3-4550)
Course XXIH: Mabel Chin (E51-285, x3-9846)
Course XXIL: Briony Keith (14N-407, x3-3581)
Course XXIM: Headquarters Office (4-246, x3-3210)
Course XXIW: Headquarters Office (14E-303, x3-7894)
Course XXII: Andrew Kadak (24-202, x3-0166)
Course XXIV: Jennifer Purdy (E39-246, x3-9372)

SOURCE: ACADEMIC RESOURCE CENTER

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- ◆ Apply for a **Summer Housing Grant.**



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help me get a job,” Maratta said, concluding that women in the computer science field are rare and thus more marketable.

Department size has its effects

The general consensus on a large versus small department size and total undergraduate enrollment was that each has its own merits.

The students from smaller departments noted that they appreciated the individual attention they received from their professors.

Diana J. Wu ’04 said, “Course III is small enough so that it’s intimate and the professors really get to know you.”

Alternatively, numerous Course VI upperclassmen say that the high enrollment in their major was a big advantage because it was easy to find friends to do homework with.

When asked if they felt they had

the opportunity to interact with faculty given the low professor to student ratio, most students from the larger departments agreed that professors tend to be quite accessible.

“The professors are really cool,” Wong said. “If you want help, you can always e-mail them.”

However, in larger departments you do have to be more active in seeking professors out. “If you want to make an effort to get to know professors, class size isn’t a problem,” said Course VI major Michelle P. Luk ’05.

Consider the major’s structure

One important feature of a major that was raised by several upperclassmen is schedule flexibility.

Curricula in different majors varies from the extremely restrictive requirements, such as in Course VI, which can leave as little as four electives, or the more flexible, such as the general major option in Course XVIII, which leaves open seven electives.

Several students said they were appreciative of the many requirements they needed to take because the classes enabled them to expand their horizons and explore areas they didn’t realize they might be interested in.

Along these lines, Luk said “there are classes that I never would have taken on my own, but after taking them I was glad.”

Other students agreed with Course VI major Michel J. Lambert ’04 who said he likes “having everything mapped out,” because it makes it easier not to have to worry about what classes he should take each semester.

Upperclassmen give perspective

Hopefully, this will give you a a better sense of what questions to ask and what criteria to consider when choosing a major. Talking to upperclassmen will help answer some of these questions and, more importantly, can help you gain perspective; an important point raised by several of the students is that one of the most helpful things you can get out of any major is how to think and solve problems, not the specific content.

“I don’t know that I want to be an engineer for the rest of my life,” Maratta said, “but I think that engineering teaches you fundamental principles about how to approach problems and how to solve them, and that’s applicable to everything.”

More Exploratory Subjects Designated This Spring

By Jenny Zhang and Kathy Lin
NEWS EDITORS

Three-hundred and two sophomores designated subjects as exploratory this term by last Friday's deadline, said Assistant Registrar Iria J. Romano '83.

Sophomores are permitted to make one class each term "exploratory," which allows them to "either accept the grade awarded or change the subject from credit to Listener status," according to the Academic Guide for Undergraduates and Their Advisors, available at <http://web.mit.edu/acadinfo/undergrad/academic-guide/sec8.html#Exploratory>.

Sophomores are required to make this decision by Registration day of the next term, after they have had the opportunity to see their final grade for the class.

The exploratory option was offered for the first time this academic year as part of a five-year program authorized by the Committee on the Undergraduate Program. It was designed to help freshmen transition to being on grades in their second semester. The Class of 2006 was the first to have one semester of Pass/No Record and one of ABC/No Record rather than Pass/No Record their entire freshman year.

Some lose exploratory option

The 121 members of the Class of 2006 who declared sophomore standing last spring do not have the exploratory option this semester, although they did not have the choice available to them during their first semester as sophomores last spring, because it had not yet been implemented.

This is because sophomore standing essentially moves a student's class status forward by one semester, so that people who declared sophomore standing last year are considered juniors this term. Those students are eligible for Junior/Senior P/D/F this term.

David L. Roe '06, who declared sophomore standing his freshman year, said that he "was a little disappointed" that he could not use the exploratory option this term, but that this would not have affected his decision to take sophomore standing last year. He said that last fall he had declared a subject exploratory because "it was a hard class in my major."

This year, however, freshmen who declare sophomore standing will immediately have the option of declaring a subject exploratory for their second term at MIT.

Of the 287 sophomores who declared subjects exploratory during the Fall 2003 semester, 64 changed the designation to listener status, said assistant registrar Peter R. Hayes.

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Which Professor Makes You Smile? Eric Lander!!!

Smile @ MIT held their 2nd annual event, Which Professor Makes You Smile, this year from 23rd to 27th February in Lobby 7. The event is very similar to the Big Screen. People vote with any amount of money for the professor that makes them smile in class. The professors who participated were Prof Demaine of the Electrical Engineering and Computer Science Department, Prof Gray – our former President of MIT, Prof Gubler of the Economics Department, Prof Lander of the Whitehead Institute, Prof Miller of the Mathematics Department, Prof Newman of the Aeronautics and Astronautics Department, Prof Slocum of the Mechanical Engineering Department, Dr Tabacco of the Chemistry Department and Prof Wolfe of the Brain and Cognitive Science Department. There was also a write-in for Prof Greg Fu. The winner of the event was Prof Eric Lander. In all, the total amount raised was \$165.88. All proceeds will go Operation Smile, an international non-profit organization that performs free reconstructive surgery of children with facial deformities and burns, all over the world. For more information please visit <http://web.mit.edu/smile/www> and <http://www.operationasmile.org>.

Smile @ MIT would like to say a big thank you to all the professors who participated this year and to all those who voted.

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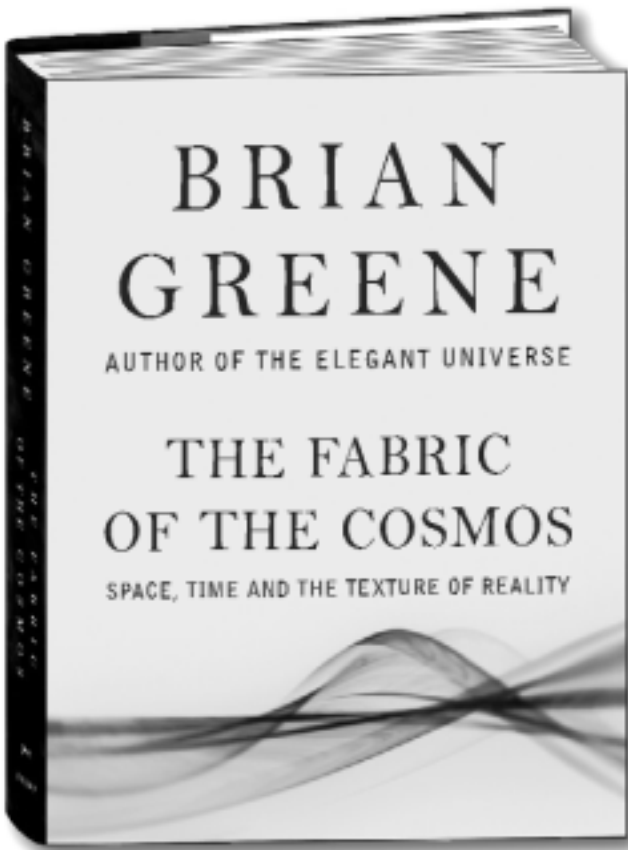
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Vest, 2004 President Pleased with Choice

Commencement, from Page 1

He called Zerhouni’s success “a great American story.”

“Arriving on these shores as a young student and now a distinguished scientist leading our largest research establishment, he exemplifies the benefits of an open and accessible research community,” Vest said.

Hidalgo said she is pleased with the selection. “I think a lot of his work has to do with stuff that’s becoming more and more important in society today,” Hidalgo said.

Hidalgo would not comment on whether or not Zerhouni was on the list submitted to Vest, or on the names of the other possible

candidates.

Zerhouni holds eight patents

Zerhouni’s research has been in the areas of Magnetic Resonance Imaging and Computerized Axial Tomography and has led to eight singly and jointly held patents.

He is also the co-founder of several companies, one of which provides near-microscopic views of specific areas using patented miniature coils that enhance MRI images when inserted into tissues.

Since becoming the director of the NIH in May 2002, Zerhouni has named directors for five institutes.

He is a member of the Institute of Medicine and from 1998-2002 served on the National Cancer Institute’s Board of Scientific Advisors.

Commencement Speakers 1994-2003

Year	Speaker
2003	Former Senator George J. Mitchell
2002	James F. Wolfensohn, <i>World Bank President</i>
2001	Daniel S. Goldin, <i>Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Agency</i>
2000	Carly S. Fiorina, <i>Hewlett-Packard President and CEO</i>
1999	Thomas L. Magliozzi ’58 and Ray Magliozzi ’72, <i>Click and Clack of the radio show Car Talk</i>
1998	U.S. President Bill Clinton and David D. Ho, <i>AIDS researcher</i>
1997	Kofi A. Annan SM ’72, <i>United Nations Secretary-General</i>
1996	U.S. Vice President Al Gore
1995	Hanna H. Gray, <i>President Emeritus of the University of Chicago</i>
1994	The Aga Khan, <i>Spiritual Leader of the Shia Ismaili Muslims</i>

Students Pleased With Housing Compromises

Summer Housing, from Page 1

that it would provide the opportunity to maintain the student community that exists during the year.

Director of Housing Karen A. Nilsson said that they had taken all of the feedback from DormCon regarding the task force report into consideration and were working with DormCon to develop the housing plans.

Suggestions by the task force to which DormCon did not object included the addition of Residential Advisor positions and improving the desk services in the dormitories over the summer, Nilsson said.

Traditionally, there have been no RA positions over the summer, and GRTs who stay on are sometimes drawn into shouldering responsibilities they are not required to, Cofer said. The new RAs may be undergraduate juniors or seniors or graduate students and will be given free housing over the summer. Each RA may be given a budget to spend on the students to enhance the commu-

nity atmosphere, she said.

High school students from the Research Science Institute program will not be housed in East Campus, since the east parallel will be renovated this summer, Cofer said.

Students thrilled to stay at home

Former Senior House President Daniel E. McAnulty ’04 thought that “people will generally be pleased with the new situation.” Senior House residents were “very unhappy” with the initial proposition to have Senior House as a conference house, and looked at a variety of ways to protest it, including speaking with Benedict. McAnulty said that they finally decided to wait for the DormCon report, and decided to use DormCon as the “unified student voice.”

Baker House President Martijn Stevenson ’05 said that “there was a lot of outcry from the students to stay here,” as there is a strong sense of community among the students even during the summer. “We are very happy at Baker,” he said.

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Soup Can originally by Andy Warhol


<http://web.mit.edu/saa/schnitzer.html>

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IFC Endorses Smith, Kanaga For UAP/VP

Elections, from Page 1

New plans for the role of the UA

Smith and Kanaga said they envisioned the UA more as a body that would be best used in empowering its member organizations.

"We want to unify campus by strengthening the governments that represent the individual constituents," Smith said. He referred to the Dormitory Council, the Interfraternity Council, the Panhellenic Association, and the Living Group Council, among others.

It would "give us a good bit of advantage to give the resources of the UA to those constituent organizations," he said.

Williams and Vasquez, however, said they wanted to focus more on getting individual input in the UA. "We're really about going out and talking to people directly, interacting with a lot of people on a personal level," Williams said.

Better communication sought

Both sets of candidates agreed that communication was a weakness, one they hoped to improve upon.

"Personal contact with student government has been lost," Williams said. "We totally understand that not everyone is interested in the UA, but we're here to make it clear that you don't have to be involved in the UA to benefit from it," he said.

Kanaga concurred that communication is something that needs to be improved. "A lot of it starts with internal communication within the UA, having strong, passionate people working in the committees, wanting to spread the word about the UA externally to other student governments or other media that are involved," she said.

Goals Checklist supplemented

Both candidates also agreed that the UA Goals Checklist, created by current UA President Pius A. Uzamere II '04, was a good idea in principle but needed to be supplemented.

Smith suggested that UA Senator projects should also be logged in an improved goals checklist. It would be easier to hold individual people responsible for a given project if it were in print, Smith said. "People would see what they're working towards, it'd be a direct connection to the people responsible," he said.

In addition, a lot of the goals on the checklist were largely overall goals, whereas "senator goals are probably more important for most people's day-to-day lives," Smith said.

Williams and Vasquez concurred that a modified goals checklist is necessary, but offered slightly different suggestions as to how it should be done.

"We want to take it a step further," Williams said. "We also want to convert it into a database system on the new UA Web site," he said. Williams and Vasquez envision a searchable database of goals where students could directly provide feedback.

"We'll go out and talk to students and presidents of living groups, and ask them about the goals," to see if they also have anything else to add, Williams said.

IFC ExecComm endorses Smith

The Interfraternity Council Executive Committee has officially endorsed the Smith/Kanaga ticket for UA President/Vice President. Such an endorsement has not been made by the IFC in the last several years.

"While both candidates are great people and have done a lot of good work, Smith better represents the interests of the undergraduate community," said Daniel H. Daneshvar '05, IFC president. "We all directly know and endorse the individuals that represent our small communities, and the UA would do well to empower and aid those smaller groups," he said.

Smith is a member of the Zeta Beta Tau fraternity, and Kanaga is a member of the Alpha Phi sorority. Williams and Vasquez are unaffiliated, though Vasquez was a pledge at the Alpha Delta Phi fraternity earlier this term.


"It's important to have the IFC on board, but it's also important to have the other organizations on board," Smith said in response to a question about the endorsement.

"[Panhellenic Association] has decided against endorsing a particular ticket for this set of elections," said Robin M. Davis '05, PanHel Vice President of Recruitment.

Uzamere declined to comment on the endorsement, and said that it would not be appropriate for him to do so.


Representatives from DormCon and the LGC could not be reached for comment.

Candidate platforms are available online at <http://vote.mit.edu/>. Online voting continues until Thursday, and in-person balloting takes place on Friday in Lobby 10.



CAMPUS CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Tank installation to affect pedestrian access



To accommodate the installation of a new nitrogen tank, pine trees on the south side of Building 38 are scheduled to be removed during the week of March 8-12. Pedestrian traffic to Building 34 via the southwest entrance will be restricted for the duration of the tank installation, which will take approximately six weeks. Although relocation of the trees to another area of campus was investigated, it is not feasible at this time because of the extreme size of the trees.

This information provided by the Department of Facilities.
web.mit.edu/evolving

President Vest Addresses Students at GSC Meeting

By Kathy Dobson
STAFF REPORTER

President Charles M. Vest addressed members of the Graduate Student Council at their monthly meeting last Wednesday, covering a broad range of topics from graduate student housing to diversity at MIT.

Vest also spoke about his vision for MIT's role in the world and what he hopes graduate students can take away from MIT. Vest said that he hopes students can take the problem-solving skills learned at MIT, "to help solve big, important problems," of the world.

Vest addresses student life

In response to a question about plans to build additional graduate student housing on campus, Vest noted a difficulty in balancing resources between undergraduate and graduate students because of the recent rise in the number of graduate students at MIT and other universities wishing to remain on-campus.

"The next thing we need on this campus is another undergraduate facility," Vest said. He said that a new undergraduate residence is "much more likely for that to occur than a graduate residence hall." However, he said, "if we can keep new residence halls operating on a self-sustaining basis," then MIT will look into building new halls.

Vest also spoke briefly about diversity at MIT, expressing his wish to increase the number of women and underrepresented minority graduate students and faculty.

Vest described the undergraduate diversity as "extraordinary," but said he thought the diversity of the graduate population was doing half as well.

One of the reasons for the difference, Vest said, is the standardized and centralized admission process at the undergraduate level, as opposed to the department-by-department admission process at the graduate level. Vest also said that he thought the Institute needed to work on "helping students see the relationship between getting a PhD and a career in academia."

According to the 2003 Dean of the School of Engineering Annual Report, women make up 24 percent of the graduate student population, compared with 34 percent of the undergraduate student population. Less than four percent of the graduate student population was underrepresented minorities, compared with 23 percent of undergraduates in the 2003-2004 academic year.

At the faculty level in the

schools of engineering and science, Vest said that the number of women in leadership positions has increased significantly, with more women becoming science department heads and the heads of major laboratories. However, he also said "I feel I have failed in my 14 years," to increase the number of underrepresented minorities in the science and engineering faculty.

Vest called Harvard's new financial aid policy for families earning under \$60,000 a year a "good, responsible thing to do," and a "philosophical move in the right direction."

However, Vest noted the nearly four-fold difference in the size of Harvard and MIT's endowment, as well as the different methodologies either institution uses to calculate financial need, as reason for why he does not expect MIT to match

the policy.

MIT's role in world discussed

Referring to MIT's role in the world and its environment, Vest said that MIT has already "made a mark" on global sustainability by becoming a founding member of the Alliance for Global Sustainability, along with the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, the University of Tokyo, and Chalmers University of Technology located in Sweden.

Vest said that currently about ten percent of research done at MIT is in environment-related activities, though he would like MIT's involvement in global sustainability to increase.

"I would like to see the commitment of the institution to increase in this direction but I think it's hard to predict," said Vest.

Addressing a question on the

evolution of the relationship between MIT and China, Vest said that he thinks the biggest contribution to education in China has been through the OpenCourseWare program. "This may end up being the biggest single impact we have," said Vest.

Vest said that approximately 27 universities in China have become “pretty well-linked through the Internet,” and that some faculty throughout the Institute are helping with the translation of material.

COLAB helps pass two initiatives

Later in the meeting, GSC President R. Erich Caulfield G acknowledged Dean of Graduate Students Isaac M. Colbert, and the Cost of Living Advisory Board, a group made up of administrators and members of the GSC, as instrumental in passing two initiatives: a full

health-insurance subsidy for graduate students and a decrease in rent hikes for on-campus housing.

Beginning in the 2004-2005 academic year, graduate students with Research Assistant, Teaching Assistant, or internal fellowships will receive a full health-insurance subsidy.

Rent rates, which were originally planned to increase by 5.2 percent next year, will now only increase by 3.75 percent.


GSC nominations begin

Caulfield announced the opening of nominations for GSC offices of president, vice-president, treasurer, and secretary. Nominations for these positions will remain open until April 5 at 11 p.m.

Elections will take place at the next general council meeting to be held on April 7.

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Changes in Coaches Hinder KU and UNC

By Brian Chase
SPORTS EDITOR

There have been a lot of thrilling stories this NCAA Division I Basketball season, the largest ones being the undefeated runs of St. Joseph's and Stanford (who just lost on the March 6, by the way). But what about the other side of the coin? The disappointments, the let-downs? There were plenty of those, too, especially the horrible play of Missouri's basketball squad. But there are another two disappointing teams that are actually linked in their disappointment, linked by the biggest coaching change of the last offseason. I refer, of course, to Kansas and North Carolina University.

One of the biggest surprises of last season was that KU basketball coach Roy Williams, coming off a loss in the National Championship game and expecting a stellar recruiting class, left KU to coach at his alma mater, North Carolina, which had been horrible for the last couple years and had recently fired its coach. In his place, KU hired Bill Self, then coach of Illinois, who had a spectacular record in leading the Illini into contention in the Big Ten and was himself a former KU assistant coach. Because Williams is one of the greatest coaches of all time, North Carolina was consistently rated in the top five in preseason polls. Kansas had a stellar freshman class and an impressive young coach, and so it was rated in the top ten.

What has happened since then? Going into both teams' championship weeks, Kansas is 20-7, ranked 18th in the Coaches' poll and 21st in the Associated Press poll, with a 12-4 record in Big XII conference play. North Carolina is 18-9, 8-8 within its conference, and ranked 16th by the Coaches and 14th by the AP. Looking at those credentials, some people might be thinking: "Disappointing? Those look like pretty records to me!" And those people might be right. But with two teams expected to be in the top ten all season, a lot of people were let down. It might be worth looking at these two teams, to see where each of them fell short, and how they might end up.

Kansas: It's never easy for a team to change coaches, especially when the coach coming in plays a tough defense and a half-court offense that the players aren't used to. But this is exactly what the KU players faced when Bill Self came to town. Self, also, had to adjust his coaching for new players and new pressures. Their expectations were never as high at Illinois as they are

at Kansas, and Self admitted the change took some getting used to. These off-court factors are important to consider when looking at Kansas' record.

As for on-court problems, Kansas has its share as well. The team lacks a true shooter, especially when freshman guard J.R. Giddens struggles. This allows teams to defend down on star forward Wayne Simien. Also, it is very hard for KU to get production from its backup players. It wasn't until KU went with a slightly sharpened playing roster that it really took off. KU fans, however, can look forward to a class next year that includes three seniors and two much-improved sophomores, without all the rough bumps of Self's first year.

North Carolina: Unlike KU, the Tar Heels didn't have as much to change with their new coach, because the departing one, Matt Doherty, was a Williams assistant at KU and ran much the same type of game, which emphasizes a break-neck transition game and doesn't put as much emphasis on shut-down defense as it does on scoring more points faster than your opponent. And Williams definitely had the players to do it this year, even if these were the same players who had forced Williams' friend Doherty to quit.

Unfortunately for UNC, they also play in the Atlantic Coast Conference, which is arguably the toughest conference this year, and far tougher than the Big XII. Thus the .500 conference record, while having a better ranking in the polls than KU. The problem is the high competition across the board didn't allow UNC to post the kind of record they would have liked, especially with pretty spotty defensive play and occasionally cold shooting streaks.

One important area in which KU definitely trumps UNC is in games against chief rivals. UNC has a rivalry with Duke basketball that is considered one of the greatest in sports, and Williams lost both games against Duke this season. KU, on the other hand, beat its archrival Missouri twice, including winning the last game to be played in the Tigers' old stadium, Harnes Center.

How will each team fare in the tournament? While I seriously doubt either team will make it to the Final Four, they might go a long way to easing their fans disappointment by getting into the Elite Eight or Sweet Sixteen. And just maybe their fans will realize how spoiled they are to root for one of the top 25 teams in the country, and be grateful for it.

T.O. Stands for Totally Obtuse

By Yong-yi Zhu
SPORTS COLUMNIST

Why does it seem like stupidity always surrounds the NFL? I don't understand how athletes that have so much talent on the field can be so incredibly incompetent off the field. It's almost a constant case of "Who is it now?" Over the past several years, we've had the likes of the Kyle Turley helmet toss, the Joe Horn cell phone call, the Terrell Owens star stomp, the Terrell Owens sharpie, and now the Terrell Owens trade fiasco.

I guess Terrell Owens isn't your model citizen even when it comes to on the field performance. He has been criticized for not playing very hard and carelessly dropping balls. He has had open disagreements with quarterback Jeff Garcia. You have to give it to him though, everything Owens has done wrong has been legal. He hasn't broken a single law.

So last week, when I heard his name in the news again, I figured he'd done something stupid again. Apparently his agent forgot to file papers that would void the final three years of Owens's contract with the 49ers and allow him to become a free agent. Right now, Terrell is slated to make \$17 million over the next three years. If he were to become a free agent, he would probably make most of that \$17 million just in his signing bonus. What's more important was that Owens seemed desperate to get out of San Francisco; after all, saying that Owens did not have a great relationship with Jeff Garcia would be a gross understatement. Not only did Owens never really listen to anyone, but he always wanted to be able to say and do anything he pleased.

Obviously, the easiest route for the 49ers to take was to trade T.O., but they were really trading him at a bargain. His contract was not big while his talent was enormous. Yet, the 49ers were not looking for a

whole lot in the trade; after all, the guy is un-coachable. When he was traded to the Ravens on Thursday, I thought that all the parties involved would be content. Boy, was I wrong.

Not only did Owens not find Baltimore an acceptable location, he had picked out the Eagles as the place he wanted to go, and he openly said he was furious with the trade. Never before have I seen an athlete so brazen about a trade. Just think about what Nomar and Manny have had to go through in the last couple of months and how quiet they have been. I don't think Owens ever learned the concept of decency when he was young.

Owens said that he had a contract with Philadelphia worked out through his agent. Owens did not feel that he should be dealt to a team without his consent. Now he has gotten the union involved in the case, and he wants the union to help him become a free agent again, or at least nullify the Baltimore trade. The union has declared this a "special-master case" and if they win, Owens will be a free agent while the Ravens will get back the 51st pick in the draft, the one that they traded to San Francisco for Terrell.

Now just think, had Owens had the peace of mind to call his agent to make sure the paperwork was finished, he would be a free agent. If he had talked more with the San Francisco organization before the trade about going to Philly and maybe forced the 49ers and the Eagles negotiate some more, this would have been avoided. Instead, Owens is still whining about not getting everything he desires.

I think that Terrell Owens deserves to be in Baltimore, especially if he does not want to be there. His behavior over the past several seasons has shown that he has no respect for authority. Why, then, should the authorities respect him? Perhaps then he will understand the proper way to treat others in the NFL.

The Production Department's Word of the Day

Gantry: A support for a barrel lying on its side.

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SPORTS

Synchro Swim Team Places Sixth at URI

By Victoria K. Anderson
TEAM MEMBER

The MIT Synchronized Swimming team took sixth place out of 11 schools at the Collegiate East Regional Championships March 5-6 at the University of Rhode Island. Canisius, one of the strongest college varsity programs in the country, took first with 104 points, while the remaining varsity teams, Keuka, Wheaton, and Walsh, rounded out the top four.

The University of Pennsylvania placed the highest of any club program in fifth with 57.5 points; MIT scored 45.5 points to place sixth and surpass Boston University's 40.5 points, while Millersville, Cornell, Penn State, and the University of Rhode Island closed out the final four team places. While accumulating points for the final team tally, MIT not only defeated four programs from Division I institutions, but also qualified six athletes and four routines for the National Championships March 24-27 in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

MIT continued its dominance in the technical figure competitions, its strongest category from the Wheaton Invitational a week earlier. They swept all three technical categories that they entered, with average scores of 70.795, 63.242, and 57.087

in the senior, junior, and novice figure categories, respectively. Individually, Lindsey R. Sheehan '07 (70.795) placed 16th in the senior division; Cilanne E. Boulet G (63.494) placed eighth and Victoria K. Anderson G (62.989) placed tenth in the junior division; Alice Wu '05 (60.427) placed fifth, Tenley D. McHarg '04 (57.233) placed tenth, and Leah C. Blasiak G (53.600) placed 19th in the novice division.

In the routine competitions, Anderson took ninth in the solo competition with a score of 74.167 and teamed with Boulet to take tenth in the duet competition with a score of 71.500. Blasiak, McHarg, and Wu finished 11th among the trios with a final score of 63.000. In the final event of the meet, Anderson, Blasiak, Boulet, McHarg, Sheehan, and Wu finished with a final score of 73.000 in a team routine to place eighth out of 14 routines. They fell less than two points short of the top team routine from Boston University in the raw score total, a sizeable improvement from the four-point gap last weekend.

The team will take the next weekend off from competition prior to the ECAC Championships at Cornell University March 19-20. At that meet, they will attempt to maintain their winning streak in the technical competition categories and overtake Boston University in the team routine competition.

Women's Tennis Defeats Bates

By Caroline Tien
TEAM MEMBER

Barely three weeks into the spring season, the MIT women's Varsity Tennis team has shown that countless drills, practice sets, and conditioning do pay off. The team returned from their match against Bates this past weekend with an 8-1 victory under their belt.

Despite a new lineup and new doubles partners, the day started off with intensity and focus, as MIT demolished their opponents in all the doubles matches. On the first court, the duo of Caroline Tien '04 and Jen A. Hipp '04 rallied past their opponents to win 8-5. On the court over, Joanna L. MacKay '07 and Elaine Ni '06 stepped up and easily won 8-2. With a combination of hard hit serves and well placed

volleys, the match quickly went in their favor.

In third doubles, Jacklyn Cichon '05 and Ruby J. Pai '04 also took advantage of their finely honed volleys to win 8-5. The tandem of Alexis R. Desieno '05 and Sarah E. Nelson '06 showed the opposing team who were the better players by winning 8-3 and likewise, Alex E. Coso '07 and MacKay emerged victorious at 8-2.

MIT stayed fueled by their momentum moving into singles. On the first court, Tien won the first set 6-2. After a temporary lapse of focus at the start of the second set, she stepped up to win six straight games for a 6-4 win in the second set. A court over, Hipp tore through her opponent 6-3, 6-4 by using well-placed passing shots and relentless groundstrokes. In third singles, Cichon garnered a very physically taxing 7-5, 4-6, 6-4 win.

The match came down a mere handful of points.

Despite well-executed points, Pai faced a hard-hitting opponent and lost 6-2, 6-2. A court over, Ni didn't sweat a drop as she pummeled the other player 6-3, 6-1. Likewise, Emily Chen '07 refused to let up on her opponent, winning 6-4, 6-0.

Overall, the team is younger this year, but they've already shown that they are capable of facing and defeating formidable opponents. "I really like how this team is coming together," remarked MIT coach Carol Matsuzaki. "I am really proud of the way we competed, especially in doubles!"

In two weeks, the team will travel to Los Angeles to play CalTech and California Lutheran University. Until then, they can only prepare with more drills, more running, and more matches.

Taekwondo Triumphs at Princeton

By Tim Kreider
TEAM MEMBER

The MIT Sport Taekwondo Club fielded a team of 40 competitors at the Princeton University Invitational on Saturday, Feb. 28. The tournament was the third this season in the Ivy/Northeast Collegiate Taekwondo League (INCTL), and it was one of the largest in league history, with teams from 20 schools in attendance. After ten hours of exhausting competition, the MIT team emerged victorious, narrowly winning first place over chief rival Cornell University.

Taekwondo competition is divided into two events: poomse (forms) and sparring. MIT scores points for each individual team member who places (gold, silver, or bronze medal) in one of five poomse divisions, and for each team of three (a lightweight, a middleweight, and a heavyweight) that places with a medal in one of three sparring divisions.

The largest poomse division was the men's black belt division, and out of the top 12 competitors selected for a final runoff, five were MIT men. Richard Sinn '06 performed a gorgeous Koryo (a type of form) for a second place win; meanwhile, Erica Chan '07 won second place for black belt women with her nearly vertical side kicks. Margaret Cho '04 won first place in women's red belt, and Bobby Ren '05 won second on the men's side. MIT blue belts dominated the field: Sandra Yu '06 and Stephanie Lee '06 won first and second for the women,

while Brandon Kam '04 and Ryan Huang '06 took second and third for the men. John Ho G took third for green belts. Finally, our beginners shone in the white/yellow belt division with a pair of gold medals, won by Taras Gorishnyy G and Diana Cheng '07. MIT finished the poomse event with a commanding lead, over twice as many points as second-place Cornell.

Men and women's A-team (advanced level) sparring, the divisions with the most points at stake in the tournament, began after poomse. The women A1 team of Jaime Lien '05, Nancy Archambault G, and Cho placed third, winning 65 points for MIT. Although a painfully narrow loss prevented the strong men's A1 team from placing, the men's A2 team, featuring Ed Cho G, Nathan Hanagami '04, Tim Kreider '04, and George Whitfield G, came in at third place. Middleweight Hanagami set the tone for the team's victory by winning his first match with a 16-0 TKO. Whitfield, the alternate heavyweight, won a key match against an old personal rival, which simultaneously sent MIT A2 to the semifinals and denied Cornell A2 the opportunity to place. Ed Cho, in his INCTL debut, went undefeated for four rounds as the team's lightweight.

With MIT's lead from poomse faltering after Cornell's success in A-team sparring, Team Captains Sinn and Conor Madigan G rallied the team in preparation for B-team (intermediate) and C-team (beginner) sparring. In these divisions, the MIT team proved the depth of its

talent and determination, with many exciting victories and personal breakthroughs among the 26 color belts, who ranged in taekwondo experience from two years to two months. The team also showed its spirit, as MIT players rushed from ring to ring cheering for teammates until their throats were raw.

Points for MIT came from the rising stars of women's C1: Rene Chen '07, Sharon Lawrence '07, Laurel Ng G and men C1: Jerry Chao '05, Ho, and Gorishnyy each who each had first place wins. A true mark of talent is the ability of a C-team player to compete also in the B-team division; Ho and Gorishnyy did just that when they teamed up with Ren on men B1 for a third place victory. In a strategic re-ranking of teams to take advantage of seeding, veterans Jaime Lien '05, Delphine Dean G, and Cho competed as B2, and they won third place.

When the competition finally ended, the entire gymnasium waited in hushed anticipation for the results. Ever since MIT's surprise victory last season over long-time INCTL champion Cornell, other teams have learned that the best they can hope for is third place. On the 28th, this dubious distinction went to NYU for its 150 points. MIT barely beat Cornell this time, 468 to 453, but the Engineers clearly earned the moral victory of the day and gained momentum for the remainder of the season. Cornell now leads MIT by a mere 153 points with two tournaments remaining in the season, one at Yale and one at Columbia, both held in April.

UPCOMING HOME EVENTS

Wednesday, March 10
5 p.m., Varsity Women's Lacrosse v. Endicott College at Jack Barry Field
7 p.m., Varsity Men's Volleyball v. Mount Ida College in DuPont Gymnasium

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Stanley Hu—THE TECH
Joseph R. Kovac '05 trains his eye on the target during the Mid-Atlantic Conference Rifle Championships on Saturday at the Johnson Athletic Center. The rifle team ended the day with a 9-5 record.